

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 11, 2008. With this response, claims 1 and 4-6 are amended; claims 2 and 3 are cancelled; and all pending claims 1, and 4-15 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, a number of claims, including independent claim 1, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based upon Henchert (US2950033). However, it is believed that the amended claims are patentably distinct from this reference.

As illustrated in Figure 1 and as set forth in amended claim 1, the present invention includes a spouting portion which has a male seal projection (106) positioned along an outer circumference of the spouting portion and an elastic seal portion (105) positioned along an inner circumference of the spouting portion. Further, a closer fits over the spouting portion and includes an insertion groove (206) which is configured to receive the male seal portion (106) along with a lower end outer circumferential surface (204) and a circumferential seal wall (205) which abut the elastic seal portion (105) thereby providing a seal to the liquid container. This is not shown by the Henchert reference.

The above configuration provides a seal for a configuration having a closer and an opening of the container which is capable of providing a sufficient seal force without allowing leakage in contrast to prior art configurations.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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